

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
March 2000

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office:

The following items were discussed at the March 9, 2000 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission:

- Chair Aoyagi advised that two work groups have been recently appointed—one concerning the implementation of the 800 mhz radio system and another concerning Terrorism Readiness.
- A request from the Sandy Spring VFD to reassign the intersection of Norbeck Rd. and Georgia Ave. from Kensington Station 25 to Sandy Spring Station 40 was denied.
- A resolution adopting the Emergency Management Based Reporting System policy was approved.
- A proposed workplan to amend the *Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan* was approved.

Corporate Development Services:

Automation

Completed the Annual Incident and Unit Response Statistics for Calendar Year 1999. This report will be distributed during the month of April.

Continued the upgrading of the wide area network to Windows NT. 13 fire and rescue stations have received the upgrade.

Continued participation in 800 MHz and Mobile Data Projects.

Implemented a Data Retrieval Request form to provide better response to MCFRS data requests.

Problems experienced with running EMBRS administrative reports were resolved.

Responded to 130 requests for automation assistance.

Fleet and Facilities

Attended several meetings relating to the construction of the new CRT Building, new Fire Stations #1, #2, and #4, and the renovation of Fire Station #5.

Completed the review of the Fire and Rescue Facilities Assessment Study.

Continued contract administration of active procurement contracts with Emergency One for aerial towers (3) and pumpers (3), and Wheeled Coach for

EMS units (4).

Participated with Division of Facilities and Services staff in the review and recommendation of an Architectural & Engineering firm for the new Fire Station #2 Project.

Provided staff support to the Apparatus Specifications Committee and the Apparatus and Facilities Subcommittee.

Grants Management

Prepared reimbursement documents for the CSX-Allegheny CRT response.

Processed procurement of chemical/biological response equipment.

Processed County Council supplemental appropriation documents for the Department of Justice County and Municipal Domestic Preparedness Grant.

Property Section

Completed the basic uniform requirements for Recruit Class #17. Coordinated fitting sessions at the PSTA for dress uniform and protective clothing requirements.

Evaluated the bids associated with an IFB for custom tailored dress uniforms and forwarded a contract award recommendation to the Office of Procurement via the Fire Administrator's office.

Initiated a phased-in enhancement to protective trousers in terms of a large cargo pocket. For trousers assigned to DFRS personnel, this will be accomplished at the time of the required annual cleaning, inspection and repair process.

Took delivery on goods associated with 2 of 3 urgent, non-competitive procurements. Monitoring status of third order which is for uniform trouser and shirts. These orders are filling voids following contractors who defaulted on three contracts.

Processed 201 property transactions during the month of March 2000.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Continued to assist with the possibility of all LFRDs availing themselves of an energy conservation program and the related lower costs for "bundled energy." The remaining corporations that have yet to respond are Bethesda, Cabin John, Damascus, Glen Echo, Kensington, Laytonsville and Upper Montgomery. Sandy Spring declined.

Participated in budget preparations and meetings with the Fire Administrator, County Executive and County Council's Public Safety Committee.

Attended the County Executive's quarterly leadership forum.

Finished work with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Police and Fire Awards luncheon.

Attended a work session regarding communications during disasters – EMG sponsored.

Traveled to Memphis, TN, to attend a two-day conference on Leadership and Management of combination departments.

At the request of the U.S. State Department, set up and accompanied a two day tour for six fire and public safety officers from the United Arab Emirates.

Attended a demonstration of equipment by the Maryland Fire Equipment Corp.

Participated in a LOSAP forum per the FRC.

Met with various personnel regarding 508 project funding.

Attended a FRC retreat.

Participated in a FIRES meeting at B-CC.

Attended a briefing regarding possible problems with the IMF demonstrations and notified all LFRD Chiefs involved of the situation. Four Task Forces have been set up to assist the DCFD, if requested.

Met with Peggy Webb and the Fire Administrator regarding Auxiliary involvement in the LOSAP program.

Continue to work with DEP representatives regarding possible hazardous materials, etc., in our stations. More will be disseminated, as it becomes available.

Attended the retirement luncheon for Mary Marchone, the Occupational and Safety meeting at MOSH, the senior staff meeting, the Maryland Metro Chiefs meeting in Piney Point, MD, a Safety Steering Committee meeting, the Fire Board meeting, the FRC meeting, the Chiefs' Committee, the Operations Committee, the Human Resources, Safety and Training Committee and the Montgomery County Fire-Rescue Association meeting.

Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

The first new drivers were qualified during this month as part of our emphasis on apparatus driver operator development. This program was developed to address staffing needs associated with pending retirements and station expansion plans in MCFRS.

The first safety and community risk reductions began in the Kensington,

Gaithersburg, Barnesville, and Olney areas. This activity included meetings and planning sessions with community, school, PTA, U.U. Park, PEPCO, and other agencies. Public education, prom related vehicle accident, and ecology clean-up activities are in the planning stages for implementation within the next 30-90 days.

We have begun discussions with State Highway, Local Fire Rescue Departments, and other affected agencies regarding road repair, improvement, and construction activities along Interstate 495, Georgia Avenue, Randolph Road, and Route 28.

We continue to participate in planning and training activities for the regional Metropolitan Medical Strike Team. We have over a dozen county members on this regional team which is working with other COG agencies, and the U.S. Public Health Service in the area of Domestic Preparedness.

Safety:

Specialty Teams: Chief Miller testified before the Congressional subcommittee on national flood response issues. Some of the SWR team members attended as well. A follow-up meeting is planned with the FEMA operations leader. The SWRT is planning an upcoming swiftwater IRIA Certified, NFPA compliant Swift Water/Flood rescue class to be held on the Potomac at the end of April. The SWR Team logged 96 training hours in February. Many lesson plans have been developed or updated as part of a formalized training program.

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue: On April 1, Captain Troy Lipp attended the annual banquet of the Luke Volunteer Fire Department in Allegheny County, Maryland. He gave a presentation on the Urban Search and Rescue Team, outlining the capabilities, and operations of the Team.

The Team continues to provide assistance to the Mid-Atlantic Technical Rescue Association (MATRA) Trench 2000 course. Our team will be providing technical support in the form of one instructor and two logistical personnel. In addition, six of our new Team members will be attending to complete their initial trench certification training.

From April 7 through 16, the team hosted the first ever FEMA Structural Collapse Rescue Technician Instructor Course. In addition to the training site, the Montgomery County US&R Team provided much of the logistical support for the course, including support personnel, equipment, and meals. One Team engineer, Victor Hare, attended a two-day session on the Structural Engineering specialty then three Team members, Captain Troy Lipp, Captain Kent Mallalieu, and Lieutenant Kenny O'Leary, attended an eight-day session. This train-the-trainer course was aimed at developing new instructors for the structural collapse technician program. As a result of this course, our Team has expanded and improved our capabilities to provide in-house training to the Team's many Rescue Specialists.

BUREAU OF LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

Community Education Safety Section

At a Montgomery County Public School teachers' training seminar, 100 additional teachers signed up to participate in the Risk Watch program.

The photo shoots for the revised Safety in Our Neighborhood brochures were completed; printing will commence after contract amendments are made to reflect the editing. Revisions include the replacement of negative behaviors (such as a child reaching for a poison) by positive ones (a mother putting the poison away in a high cabinet), the inclusion of more cultural diversity, and the correction of out-of-date telephone numbers and division names.

Final decisions were made regarding the allotment of Children's Initiative grant money.

Plans were made to procure a van for the Life Safety Education Division and to paint it in a unique way that will promote Safety in Our Neighborhood.

Many friends and colleagues honored Mary Marchone at her retirement luncheon on March 30th. Lieutenant Anne Harrison will fulfill the duties of the Life Safety Program Education Specialist until Mrs. Marchone's position has been filled; the position vacancy was announced in the March 22, 2000, Personnel Bulletin. Lieutenant Ivan Rodbell will be the lead instructor for Operation Extinguish and will continue to administer the Safety in Our Neighborhood program, Firefighter III Sharon Woerner will continue to manage the Child Safety Seat program, and Lieutenant Oscar Garcia will continue to coordinate the Safe House community outreach events.

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In March, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 18 accidental fires, 13 incendiary fires, and one false alarm. Two of these incidents were large loss fires with damage estimated to be over \$ 150,000 dollars. Investigators arrested eight individuals this month for arson related crimes. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 16 incidents. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$ 1,071,250 and \$ 8,310 for incendiary fires.

The section provided training this month to the NIH Police and Montgomery County Park Police in explosive awareness.

Kirsten McGovern, a second grader from the Burtonsville Elementary School, won the "Name That Robot Contest." Kirsten's entry was chosen out of the 377 entries from the entire student body. Two assemblies were held on March 17th at the school to announce the contest, show off the new robot and provide safety information to the children. The name that was chosen is F. R. E. D., which stands for **F**or **R**emoving **E**xplosive **D**evelopes. Kirsten won a 20" bike and one hundred dollars cash for her winning entry.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

January Storm Federally Declared - President Clinton signed the federal Declaration for the snowstorm of January 25th-26th, which includes Montgomery County in the amendment. The signing paves the way for federal reimbursement of certain snow removal and emergency response costs for the two days. Volunteer Fire Departments are eligible for partial reimbursement as non-profit organizations.

Severe Weather Planning and Response –Office of Emergency Management staff and volunteers will attend the annual Severe Storm Awareness program held April 27th at the State EOC at Camp Fretard. Training includes winter storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other severe weather events. Kathleen Henning joined state and county Emergency Management directors at an excellent pilot “Severe Weather and Flooding Preparedness” program April 5-7th taught by staff of the National Weather Service. Hurricane season begins June 1st and State has planned a multi-jurisdictional hurricane exercise for that day. Flooding is still a major county threat. Office of Emergency Management has applied for a federal grant to digitize flood plain maps since Montgomery County is the only county in the state which has not been digitized for GIS. Monies have also been requested for mapping danger reach areas of life hazard vulnerable dams located in the county. Most of the dams are earthen dams which did not pose a problem during the drought but could be effected by flash flooding.

Terrorism Preparedness – Mike Krumlauf is on the design team for the three state federal terrorism exercise called “Top-Off,” including top federal and cabinet level officials. Denver, New Hampshire, and Washington will be simultaneous simulated targets, with DC working through a radiological attack scenario. The other jurisdictions will have a chemical and biological threat. The tabletop will be April 27th, will a follow-up unannounced full scale exercise in late May.

Bob Nemchin attended the National Domestic Preparedness Office’s Extreme Infrastructure-WMD Conference at the FBI Academy in Quantico. The conference focused on coordination of federal, state, and local assets in preparation and response to WMD incidents, with emphasis on coordination with the local assets.

PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

Communications - Tetlow

The week of April 9th through 15th was National Telecommunicators week. During the week long celebration, ECC hosted an open house which was designed to show what we do and the importance of the work.

Lt. Michael R. Marcopulos has been nominated by his supervisors for the Public Safety Telecommunicator of the Year Award for the Mid-Eastern Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Officials, Inc. The Mid-Eastern Chapter comprises the states of Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Lt. Marcopulos has work for the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service for over 33 years, and has been assigned to ECC for over 30 years. During his many years at ECC, Lt. Marcopulos has seen many changes in communications field, and he says that he is looking forward to working in the new communications center.

The recipient of the Public Safety Telecommunicator of the Year Award will be announced at the APCO Mid-Eastern Chapter meeting in Dover, Delaware on April 20, 2000. Captain Patullo, Lt. Marcopulos, and Ms. Morello will be attending the meeting. Good Luck Mike!

Captain Patullo completed the APCO - Liability Issues for the 911 Center course and he also attended a one day seminar in Woodstock, Virginia that dealt with Handling Crisis Calls in the 911 Center.

At their annual banquet on March 11, 2000, the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department presented the staff at ECC with a generous gift of \$150.00. This was a thank you from the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department for all the work that ECC did for them during 1999. The ECC staff decided to use the money to purchase a TV/VCR combination unit for the center.

Training – Clemens

A graduation ceremony was held on March 10th in the Auditorium of the University of Maryland, Shady Grove Center, for twenty-one members of Recruit Class #16.

Recruit Class #17 continues with 29 of the 32 recruits who began on February 14th.

Doorway expansion and room preparation was completed and the new “Eagle” Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) compressor was installed.

EMT-Paramedic Class #20 continues with 16 students.

Two career and two volunteer EMT-Paramedics were awarded Paramedic status in March.

CPR Training for 110+ nurses/therapists from Department of Health and Human Services was provided by the Training Academy in conjunction with the departments' American Heart Association (AHA) Community Training Center (CTC).

The Training Academy received 2200 copies of Maryland Medical Protocol updates to be disbursed to all field providers. Training is being development for implementation of protocol updates.

Training is being developed for distribution to all providers on the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS) Emergency Medical Radio Center (EMRC) update. The program will include a lesson guide and video.

Biannual instructor update for all department CPR instructors (125) and all CPR instructor trainers (25) was completed in March.

